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Minutes: Children and Families Commission Meeting

In-Person Meeting Date, time, location April 6, 2022
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
First 5 San Bernardino
735 E. Carnegie Drive, Suite 150, San Bernardino
Commission Conference Center

Pledge of Allegiance Pledge of Allegiance led by Chair Dr. Weinstein

New Commissioners Swearing-In Ceremony Ted Alejandre, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Gwendolyn Dowdy-Rodgers, San Bernardino City Unified School District Board Member

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Commission members shall review agenda item contractors, subcontractors, and agents, which may require member abstentions due to conflict of interest and financial interests.

A Commission member with conflicts of interests shall state their conflict under the appropriate item. A Commission member may not participate in or influence the decision on a contract for which their abstention has been recorded.

Attendees

Commissioners

- Ted Alejandre
- Diana Alexander
- Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr.,
- Dr. Gwendolyn Dowdy-Rodgers
- Joshua Dugas
- Gary Ovitt
- Elliot Weinstein, M.D.

Staff

- Karen E. Scott, Executive Director
- Ann Calkins, Executive Assistant
- Cindy Faulkner, Assistant Director
- Traci Homan, Business Support Manager
- Debora Dickerson-Sims, Chief Financial Officer
- Scott McGrath, Deputy Director of Systems and Impact

- Ronnie Robinson, Section Manager-Systems and Communication
 - Wendy Lee, Section Manager-Evaluation and Impact
 - Kimberly VandenBosch, Communications Officer
 - Erika Willhite, Staff Analyst II
 - Marian Fam, Accountant III
 - Peter Tawadros, Staff Analyst II
 - LuCretia Dowdy, Community Engagement Specialist
 - Ray Salamat, Staff Analyst II
 - Renee Jones, Staff Analyst II
 - James Kim, Accountant III
 - Willmar Gultom, Accountant II
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Changes to the Agenda

None

Legislative Report – Chekesha Gilliam

Commissioner received a copy of the latest legislative report.



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Advisory Committee Report – Gary Ovitt

Advisory Committee members met on March 22nd.

First 5 staff presented a special tribute video for Dr. Margaret Hill and former Commissioner and Advisory Committee member Nancy Ruth White.

An election was held for Advisory Committee Vice Chair. James Moses was nominated and accepted the position.

A communications and marketing update given by Kimberly VandenBosch, First 5 Communications Officer was well received by the members.

Members heard information on the First 5 Innovation Funding Initiative and the Help Me Grow parent survey.

Ronnie Robinson, First 5's Section Manager for Systems and Communications presented information on the "Race, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion" efforts known as REDI and explained that a project consultant who is currently involved with other First 5 Commissions will work with the Advisory members on April 28th to create and draft a REDI policy for Commission approval.

Members were also asked to review the current First 5 strategic plan and make any applicable recommendations and/or corrections. This document is due for an update in 2023.

The meeting was adjourned in the memory of Mercedes Logans, First 5 Staff Analyst II, who recently lost her brave fight with cancer.

The next Advisory meeting is scheduled for May 19th.

**Executive
Director's
Report –
Karen E. Scott**

Welcome to our two new commissioners!

We are proud to add Ted Alejandre, County Superintendent and Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers, Arrowhead United Way President to our First 5 Commission team!

Save the date

Wednesday, May 11, 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 pm - Budget & Planning Workshop. Commissioners will receive an update on:

- Our revenue and expenses and have the opportunity to review and analyze the proposed budget for F5SB for Fiscal Year 2022/2023.

In addition, F5 Staff will share with you:

- Our new Communications Plan and its proposed budget
- A developing funding opportunity related to Innovation that we would like to release to the community.

Other News

April is National Child Abuse Prevention month, promoting community involvement in preventing child abuse. Children's Network's annual "Shine-a-Light" on Child Abuse Awards event is happening Thursday, April 14th. The event entitled A COMMUNITY IN UNITY WILL PREVENT CHILD ABUSE is again virtual this year. There are some incredible honorees being recognized including our very own former CFS Director, Marlene Hagen.

Responding to the changing childcare landscape, especially the designation for most of San Bernardino County as a "child care desert", F5SB and Child Care Resource Center have teamed up with Brad Gates and Mariann Johnson with our County's Workforce Development Board to explore the potential of Workforce Development for childcare that aligns and supports the Commission's investment into Quality Start San Bernardino (QSSB).

We are also happy to spread the word about and collaboratively support CSUSB with their newly offered Early Childhood trauma Informed Care certificate program. This is a valuable workforce development opportunity for our early learning and care providers and P-3 educators.

Responding to Universal PreK: Through strategic investments, California seeks to set children on a trajectory of lifelong success by investing in early and equitable learning experiences, including infant and toddler supports, such as family leave and access to infant and toddler care, universal preschool for all four-year-old children, and enhanced educational experiences across an aligned preschool to third grade system.

With the release of the State's Universal Prekindergarten Plan on December 17th, our SBCSS partners have reached out and effectively brought us on board for the planning and implementation of UPK. SBCSS Early Learning Division has spent the past few months gathering guidance from CDE and releasing foundational information to the school districts and partnership groups (most notably Local Policy Council (LPC) and the QSSB Steering Committee.

F5 Executive Team had an opportunity to meet with Jennifer Gateley, Christina-Rasshan Smith and Heather Smith in our first "in person" meeting last month. There are still some issues of concern for F5s, Head Start and our Child Care Resource

Center, but with the resurrection of our previously formed Early Learning Collaborative, we have the opportunity to address those issues and explore solutions that can meet the needs of all.

F5SB will also participate in a UPK Task Force group with the SBCSS Early Learning Division that will be responsible for sharing insight and input on the creation of guidance and recommendations for the planning and implementation of Universal Prekindergarten in San Bernardino County, including providing feedback and recommendations for the countywide Universal Prekindergarten Plan and providing LEAs with sample language for individual draft plans.

Related to Early Childhood Mental Health – besides the work we will share later about reimaging SART, F5SB, the entire F5 Network is working strategically with stakeholders and consumers throughout the state to ensure a carve out for children ages 0 – 5 in the \$4.9 billion Children & Youth Behavioral Health Initiative. Specifically, we'd like more intentionality and focus on community providers, (beyond the school walls), a focus on Social Emotional Learning and ACES, alignment with enhanced care management under CalAIM, and a well-considered bridge with Prop 63 and SART.

Related to School-based health - There is a funding opportunity to expand school-based health for all students. Our managed care plan, IEHP is taking the lead on this application and F5SB is working closely with them offering data, needs assessment information & processes and general collaboration.

Maternal Health Network

First 5 San Bernardino created the Maternal Health Network (MHN) in 2019 as a collective of various service providers and advocates who support the comprehensive maternal health system throughout San Bernardino County. MHN has more than 100 member organizations including ARMC, DPH-WIC, Loma Linda University, Sheriff, Managed Care (IEHP), Cal Baptist, Inland Empire Breastfeeding Coalition, SBCSS, independent doulas, and so many more.

MHN has a Strategic Plan that guides the work of its members with strategies that address Policy and Practices, Community Education, Service Expansion, Workforce Development and Data Collection.

F5SB is the sole creator and funder of this initiative and to date have utilized the services of a paid consultant to lead the collective impact framework. We are now looking to contract with a designated "backbone organization" to continue to lead this work instead of the consultant. Three specific entities of MHN that have shown strong leadership and demonstrated necessary capacity have been asked to submit applications and letters of support to be considered for the designation as we end the contract with the consultant. Commissioners may be contacted about providing a letter of support.

Help Me Grow

Going strong and always evaluating how to make the system stronger and reach more children without duplication. Dr. Marti Baum is the physician champion and Ron Stewart is the program manager. Along with the F5 Team assigned to that contract they are all doing an outstanding job, providing for early screening and responding to the needs under social determinants of health of our County's youngest children.

REDI

Ronnie Robinson, Program Section Manager continues to serve as the lead for all Southern County First 5s in the collaborative learning on REDI. (Race, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion). Dr. Cherina Betters, Equity Officer for SBCSS has been an asset to our local conversations and explorations on what REDI means to an organization like F5SB.

Prop 64-Cannabis Tax

Besides the desire for F5s to perhaps receive funding for children’s services from the Prop 64 taxation structure most recently there have been discussions about not collecting tax on cannabis in some situations and there is a fear that that can have a negative impact on early care programs. The County’s position on Prop 64 taxation issues is very important for F5SB to know in order to properly represent and be included in statewide conversations.

Future legislative reports

I will do my best to share with the Commission the latest F5 Network Policy Updates that would be of interest to you in the absence of Chekesha Gilliam, who has accepted a position with the County of Riverside.

Inland Empire Community Collaborative (IECC)

Under the leadership of Susan Gomez and the IECC, the Inland Empire Children’s Cabinet is a large network of nonprofit organizations that are working together to be well positioned to advocate for the community on a grander scale on issues such as justice and equity for children, families, and a wide intersection of underserved and marginalized communities. Similar to F5SB, IECC and now Inland Empire Children’s Cabinet are committed to improving the lives of children and families in the IE. F5SB regularly participates in the IE Children’s Cabinet meetings and calls to action.

Item No.	CONSENT
1	<p>Approve Minutes from February 2, 2022 Commission Meeting.</p> <p>Motion made by Commissioner Ovitt and seconded by Commissioner Alexander to approve the Consent Item.</p> <p>Without further comment or objection, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>

Item No.	DISCUSSION
2	<p>Elect Vice-Chair for the Children and Families Commission for San Bernardino County. (Presenter: Karen E. Scott, Executive Director, 252-4252)</p> <p>Ms. Scott asked for nominations from the floor for the position of Vice Chair. Commissioner Dugas nominated Commissioner Gary Ovitt. Commissioner Baca, Jr., nominated Diana Alexander, who declined the nomination. Commissioner Ovitt accepted the nomination.</p> <p>Hearing none further, nominations closed for the position of Vice Chair. Without further comment or objection, commission members unanimously voted in favor of Commissioner Ovitt as Vice Chair.</p> <p>Without further comment or objection and no public comments noted, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>

<p>3</p>	<p>Conduct Public Hearing on California Children and Families Commission Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. (Presenter: Scott McGrath, Deputy Director of Systems and Impact, 252-4259)</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> None</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> None</p> <p>Public Hearing conducted. No comments received.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Approve Amendment A1 for Contract EC036 with the San Bernardino County Preschool Services Department for \$481,577 for a cumulative total not to exceed \$1,009,577 for Fiscal Years 2022-2024 in support of the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership. (Presenter: Erika Willhite, Staff Analyst II, 252-4262)</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> Commissioner Baca, Jr., commented that services are needed for the 0 to 3 population and is pleased to see public schools taking note as well. Commissioner Alexander stated she was director for Preschool Services Department and remembers the Early Head Start partnership which was a wonderful program for children for so many years. The landscape has changed over the years and in looking at the 0 to 5 population, we now see the schools going towards Pre-K and TK (transitional kindergarten) and looking more at the 0 to 3 group. Both Commissioners stated they are pleased that First 5 is continuing to support this contract.</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> None.</p> <p>Commissioner Alexander abstained due to her position as appointing authority over Preschool Services. Commissioners Alejandre, Baca, Jr., and Dugas abstained since they sit on the PSD Shared Governance Board.</p> <p>Motion made by Commissioner Dowdy-Rodgers and seconded by Commissioner Ovitt.</p> <p>Without further comment or objection, no public comments noted, and with a majority vote of the three remaining Commissioners, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Approve Contract EC043 with the San Bernardino County Library System in an amount not to exceed \$16,874 for the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten literacy program for Fiscal Years 2022-2026. (Presenter: Erika Willhite, Staff Analyst II, 252-4262)</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> None.</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> None.</p> <p>Commissioner Alexander abstained due to her position as appointing authority over County Library. Commissioner Baca, Jr., abstained since he is a voting member of the Board of Supervisors.</p>

	<p>Motion made by Commissioner Dugas and seconded by Commissioner Ovitt.</p> <p>Without further comment or objection and with no public comments noted, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>
6	<p>Approve Amendment A3 to Contract SI032 with Inland Empire Breastfeeding Coalition for an increase of \$102,074 for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 for a cumulative total not to exceed \$328,228 for Fiscal Years 2019-2023 to expand their policy and advocacy work centered on Senate Bill 402 and ensuring that all birthing hospitals are baby-friendly. (Presenter: Renee Jones, Staff Analyst II, 252-4273)</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> None.</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> None.</p> <p>Motion made by Commissioner Baca, Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Dowdy-Rodgers.</p> <p>Without further comment or objection and with no public comments noted, motion carried by unanimous vote.</p>

Item No.	INFORMATION
7	<p>Receive information on approval of employment contract entered into by the County of San Bernardino upon request by the Children and Families Commission Executive Director for Ramon Salamat to provide services as a Staff Analyst II effective February 12, 2022 through February 11, 2025. (Presenter: Karen E. Scott, Executive Director, 252-4252)</p>
8	<p>Receive information on approval of employment contracts entered into by San Bernardino County upon request of the Children and Families Commission for San Bernardino County with the following individuals, for the period of March 26, 2022 through March 25, 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Alexandra (Jammy) Gutierrez as Staff Analyst II b. Wendy Lee as Staff Analyst II – Section Manager, Evaluation and Impact <p>(Presenter: Karen E. Scott, Executive Director, 252-4252)</p>

Public Comment None

Commissioner Roundtable Commissioner Alejandre stated he is glad to be on the First 5 Commission. The purpose and priorities of First 5 are so much in line with public education and in looking at our County's Cradle to Career roadmap 0 to 5 is absolutely essential. Not just academic but social and academic support across the board. He is very proud to be a part of this incredible group and is excited about the work they will do together. Commissioner Alejandre has always appreciated the efforts of the executive director and the work behind First 5.

Commissioner Alexander reiterated how excited she is to be a part of this group, as well. Having been with the County for so long and being a part of the vision work and Cradle to Career roadmap, and being able to work with Karen Scott is so special to see the work continue. Commissioner Alexander also acknowledged Wendy Lee (First

5 Section Manager) and her recent promotion. Ms. Lee was Commissioner Alexander's MLA mentee.

Commissioner Baca, Jr. congratulated the two new Commissioners, who are very much qualified and will be a great asset to the Commission. Commissioner Baca, Jr. stated that this Commission should consider possible needs for the homeless population, specifically the homeless mothers with children 0 to 5. The city of San Bernardino has the largest homeless population in the entire County. The numbers from the Point in Time homeless population survey should be released soon and Commissioner Baca, Jr. feels this is something the Commission should focus on.

Commissioner Dowdy-Rodgers is grateful and honored to be on the Commission. She stated that it is unique that so many in the room know each other and are working towards the same goal. Commissioner Dowdy-Rodgers is proud to be part of the early education force of which the spirit of Dr. Margaret Hill will live on.

Commissioner Dugas congratulated and welcomed the two new Commissioners and thanked First 5 staff for their presentations. Mr. Dugas missed attending in-person meetings and is grateful to be here and see everyone. Commissioner Ovitt congratulated and welcomed the two new Commissioners. Mr. Ovitt always enjoys hearing the good work surrounding early education and appreciates being able to attend meetings in-person.

Chair Weinstein congratulated and welcomed the two new Commissioners and First 5 staff. Dr. Weinstein stated that the American Academy of Pediatrics recently held a meeting to discuss expansion of the Reach Out and Read program. Dr. Weinstein is hopeful that future First 5 contracts can interconnect with this program.

Wednesday, May 11, 2022
Budget and Planning Workshop
2:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Next Meetings

Commission Meeting
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Attest

Elliot Weinstein, M.D., Chair

Ann M. Calkins, Commission Secretary
